

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 IO-03 L-02

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INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

COMICEDEFOR

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T USNATO 2530

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-81

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MARR, IC

SUBJECT: ICELANDIC FISHERIES DISPUTE: DISCUSSION AT PERMREPS LUNCHEON

REF: USNATO 2480

SUMMARY: AT LUNCH MAY 22, FOLLOWING UP ON COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 21 (REFTEL), PERMREPS REVIEWED QUESTION OF HOW TO MEDIATE
ICELANDIC FISHERIES DISPUTE. SPEAKING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS,
INCELANDIC PERMREP ANALYZED CURRENT CRISIS AND CONCLUDED THAT
AN UNWELCOME INITIATIVE BY LUNS TO MEDIATE COULD CAUSE
ICELAND TO WITHDRAW FROM NATO. COMMENT: DURING ENTIRE
DISCUSSION IDF WAS NEVER MENTIONED. END SUMMARY
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1. ASYG PANSA OPENED DISCUSSION OF UK- ICELAND FISHERIES
DISPUTE, EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SERIOUS INCIDENT MIGHT OCCUR,
AND CITED PARA 57(D) OF NATO " WISE MEN REPORT" IN ASKING
WHETHER SYG LUNS' GOOD OFFICES SHOULD BE OFFERED TO ASSIST

BOTH ALLIES.

2. PECK (UK) RESPONDED THAT MG WAS READY TO NEGOTIATE PROVIDING:

-- BRITISH TRAWLERS ARE ABLE TO FISH UNMOLESTED IN DISPUTED WATERS DURING NEGOTIATIONS, IN WHICH CASE THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ROYAL NAVY TO PROTECT THEM;

-- THERE IS NO ACTION BY LUNS OR OTHERS TO WEAKEN UK'S STRONG LEGAL POSITION ESTABLISHED BY EARLIER ICJ DECISION.

3. TOMASSON (ICELAND) REPORTED THAT HE WAS STILL WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS PROBABLY BECAUSE BOTH JOSEFSSON AND JOHANNESSEN ARE TRAVELING IN EASTERN EUROPE. HE, NEVERTHELESS, TOOK THE OCCASION TO GIVE PERMREPS BENEFIT OF HIS OWN ANALYSIS OF SITUATION IN ICELAND, AS FOLLOWS:

-- THE NEW LEADERS IN ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT ARE NOT IMPRESSED BY LEGAL CASE. THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND LEGAL AND DIPLOMATIC SUBTLETIES;

-- MANY OF THESE LEADERS PLACE LITTLE STOCK BY MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND COMMUNISTS EXPLICITLY OPPOSED CONTINUATION OF ICELANDIC TIES TO ALLIANCE.

-- ICELAND WILL NOT NEGOTIATE WITH UK OR OTHERS UNTIL BRITISH WARSHIPS WITHDRAW BEYOND 50- MILE LIMIT. LONDON'S USE OF NAVAL POWER HAS GIVEN JOSEFSSON MORE PUBLIC SUPPORT AND PRESENTED HIM WITH A NEW REASON WHY ICELAND SHOULD PULL OUT OF NATO.

4. A NUMBER OF PERMREPS COMMENTED INFORMALLY ON THE SITUATION. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) ARGUED THAT LUNS AS SYG WAS OBLIGATED TO DISPUTING PARTIES AND OTHER ALLIES TO PROVIDE GOOD OFFICES. SYG SHOULD AT LEAST OFFER TO INVESTIGATE SITUATION THAT
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THREATENS VIOLENCE OR AT MINIMUM SUGGEST THAT HE APPOINT "EXPLORER" ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTIES. PERHAPS PRESIDENTS NIXON AND POMPIDOU MIGHT USE THEIR INFLUENCE WITH PRIME MINISTER JOHANNESSEN WHEN THEY VISIT ICELAND ON JUNE 1. ERALP (TURKEY), RECALLING PAST TROUBLES IN CYPRUS, URGED ICELAND TURN TO NATO RATHER THAN UN SECURITY COUNCIL. BOTH FRG AND DANISH PERREP ARGUED AGAINST POSSIBLE TRIP BY LUNS TO REYKJAVIK. HJORTH- NIELSEN (DENMARK) OBSERVED THAT HOSTILITY IN ICELAND TOWARD UK AND NATO IS SO INTENSE THAT HE RECOMMENDED STRONGLY AGAINST MOVE BY SYG. BUSCH (NORWAY) REMARKED THAT RECITATION OF SYG'S DUTIES AVAILS LITTLE WHEN NATIONAL TEMPER FLARE. HE INFORMED PERMREPS OF NORWAY'S WILLINGNESS TO MEDIATE DISPUTE.

5. IN RESPONDING TO VARIOUS COMMENTS TOMASSON FURTHER
OBSERVED THAT:

-- CURRENT ICELANDIC LEADERS SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO
RESPOND REASONABLY TO NIXON/ POMPIDOU APPROACH. IN ADDITION, HE
WAS NOT HOPEFUL THAT SITUATION WOULD REMAIN STATIC AND TRANQUIL
UNTIL MAY 31;

-- THERE IS A DANGER THAT AN INITIATIVE BY LUNS MIGHT
CAUSE ICELAND TO DENOUNCE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY.
RUMSFELD

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NMAFVVZCZ
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